

# **Work Zone Ordinances**

**Work Zone Speed Limits  
Work Zone Variable Speed Limits  
Work Zone Speeding Penalty**

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# Work Zone Speed Limits

- “Work Zone Ordinance Request Form” required
- Must have fixed beginning and ending points that are static
- Beginning and ending points of the ordinance do not have to match the beginning and ending points of the work zone
- Must have a fixed speed limit that is static
- Must be in effect 24 hours per day, 7 days per week
- Must be tied to a specific project
- Can not overlap another work zone speed limit, but can overlap other work zone ordinances (variable speed limits and speed limit penalties)

# **Work Zone Speed Limits (continued)**

- **Speed limits should be posted at the beginning and ending of speed zones to indicate the authorized speed limit from that point forward**
- **A reduction of speed limits should be posted with an appropriate warning sign at least 600 feet in advance of the speed zone (§136-33.2)**



# **Work Zone Speed Limits (example)**

- **From 0.58 miles west of SR 1443 (Broughton Road) to 0.92 miles east of SR 1443 (B-2341).**

# Work Zone Variable Speed Limits

- “Work Zone Ordinance Request Form” required
- No beginning and ending points are required
- Must be tied to a specific project
- Can overlap any other ordinance
- Speed limits should be posted at the beginning and ending of speed zones to indicate the authorized speed limit from that point forward
- A reduction of speed limits should be posted with an appropriate warning sign at least 600 feet in advance of the speed zone (§136-33.2)

# Work Zone Variable Speed Limits (continued)

- Speed limits indicated in the car and truck speed limit fields in TEAAS will be considered the minimum maximum speed limit for those types of vehicles
- The lower and upper speed limit range (surrounded by asterisks) and the incremental movement (5 MPH, 10 MPH, etc.) between the lower and upper speed limits must be included in the ordinance description



# Work Zone Variable Speed Limits (continued)

- The actual condition(s) when the speed limit will be in effect (i.e. – when work is taking place) and the phrase “based on conditions in the field” must also be included in the ordinance description
- Resident engineers must indicate the locations, speed limits, and dates in their project diaries of where the variable work zone speed limits were placed and when they were in effect

# Work Zone Variable Speed Limits (example)

- \*45 MPH or 55 MPH\* in an increment of 10 MPH, based on conditions in the field, from a point 0.2 mile south of the Virginia State Line to the Virginia State Line, to be in effect only when workers are present and/or lane closures are implemented and signs are posted (I-4906).



# Work Zone Speeding Penalty

- “Work Zone Ordinance Request Form” required
- Must be tied to a specific project
- Must be tied to the "begin work zone" and "end work zone" signs (§20-141, j2)
- Static or changeable message signs (or other portable signs) may be used to define the work zone (not project) limits
- The work zone speeding penalty condition may move but only if the actual "begin work zone" and "end work zone" signs move
- Can overlap any other ordinance
- Is only effective when signs are erected (§20-141, j2)

# Work Zone Speeding Penalty (General Statute §20-141, j2)

- **A person who drives a motor vehicle in a highway work zone at a speed greater than the speed limit set and posted under this section shall be required to pay a penalty of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00).** This penalty shall be imposed in addition to those penalties established in this Chapter. A "highway work zone" is the area between the first sign that informs motorists of the existence of a work zone on a highway and the last sign that informs motorists of the end of the work zone. This subsection applies only if a sign posted at the beginning of the highway work zone states the penalty for speeding in the work zone. The Secretary shall ensure that work zones shall only be posted with penalty signs if the Secretary determines, after engineering review, that the posting is necessary to ensure the safety of the traveling public due to a hazardous condition.



# **Work Zone Speeding Penalty (General Statute §20-141, j2)**

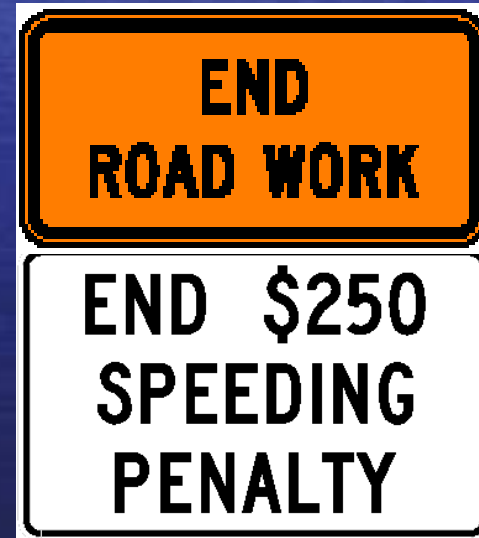
- A law enforcement officer issuing a citation for a violation of this section while in a highway work zone shall indicate the vehicle speed and speed limit posted in the work zone. Upon an individual's conviction of a violation of this section while in a highway work zone, the clerk of court shall report that the vehicle was in a work zone at the time of the violation, the vehicle speed, and the speed limit of the work zone to the Division of Motor Vehicles.



# Work Zone Speeding Penalty (examples)

- Between the first sign that informs motorists of a work zone and the last sign that informs motorists of the end of the work zone, from 0.3 miles east of SR 1203 to 0.2 miles west of SR 1454 (B-2341).
- Between the first sign that informs motorists of a work zone and the last sign that informs motorists of the end of the work zone – changeable message signs, portable signs, and/or stationary signs will be used to inform motorists of the work zone limits (I-4906).

# Work Zone Speeding Penalty (essential signing)



True or false. The following work zones are signed correctly (assume vehicles are traveling from left to right).

1. F



2. F



3. F



4. F



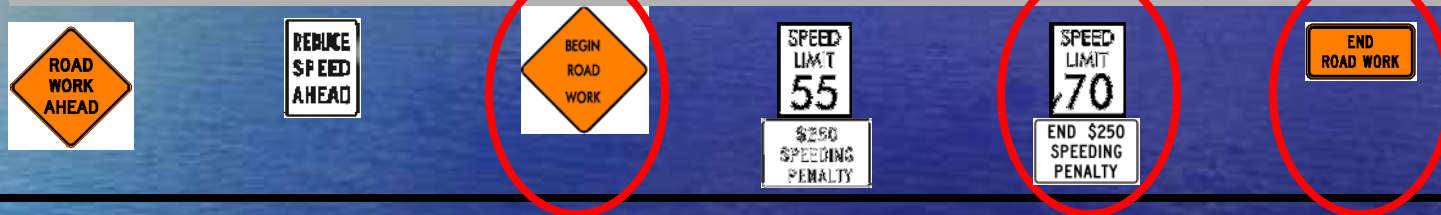


True or false. The following work zones are signed correctly (assume vehicles are traveling from left to right).

5. F



6. F



7. F



True or false.

8. F A work zone speed reduction requires a \$250 work zone speed penalty.
9. F A \$250 work zone speed penalty applies only to a work zone speed reduction.
10. F \$250 work zone speed penalty signs should be covered when a work zone is considered “inactive”.
11. F The \$250 work zone speed penalty may apply only to active work locations and not entire work zones.

# Work Zone Ordinance Request Form

## Traffic Engineering and Safety Systems Branch

DRAFT

This form is to be used where work zone design constraints prohibit continuation of existing speed limits (posted or statutory) through a work zone. One form should be filled out for each ordinance request, and if a project crosses county lines then one form should be filled out for each county involved. Justification for the work zone ordinance request(s) should be attached.

### A. Work Zone Information:

County: \_\_\_\_\_ Division: \_\_\_\_\_ Route: \_\_\_\_\_

Project: \_\_\_\_\_ WBS Element: \_\_\_\_\_

*Work zone (not project) beginning point...*

Distance: \_\_\_\_\_ (miles/feet) Direction: \_\_\_\_\_ From: \_\_\_\_\_

*Work zone (not project) ending point...*

Distance: \_\_\_\_\_ (miles/feet) Direction: \_\_\_\_\_ From: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Static Work Zone ("Begin Road Work" sign will not move) ☐ Moving Work Zone ("Begin Road Work" sign will move)

**B. Requested Ordinance(s):**

NOTE – Please include a schematic (line diagram) indicating the beginning and ending points of the work zone (not project), and indicating the beginning and ending points of any requested work zone speed limits (fixed or variable). Please also include any other documentation or comments that would assist in clarifying the type of work being performed and the intent, and placement, of the requested ordinances.

Car Speed Limit: \_\_\_\_\_ MPH      Truck Speed Limit: \_\_\_\_\_ MPH      ☐ \$250 Penalty

Requested Begin Date: \_\_\_\_\_      Projected Ending Date: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **Fixed Speed Limit** (speed limit reduced during life of work zone – can only be used with static work zones)

NOTE – Ordinance beginning and ending points are required but do not have to match the beginning and ending points of the work zone.

***Ordinance (not project or work zone) beginning point...***

Distance: \_\_\_\_\_ (miles/feet)      Direction: \_\_\_\_\_      From: \_\_\_\_\_

***Ordinance (not project or work zone) ending point...***

Distance: \_\_\_\_\_ (miles/feet)      Direction: \_\_\_\_\_      From: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **Variable Speed Limit** (speed limit reduced only during certain conditions – can be used with static or moving work zones)

Condition(s): \_\_\_\_\_

**C. Requester Information:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_      Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_      Date: \_\_\_\_\_





**ANY QUESTIONS**  
**on**  
**WORK ZONE SPEED LIMITS**